



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer  
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

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## NJMC Offers Funding to Help Towns Offset Costs of Affordable Housing Plans

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today allocated nearly \$500,000 to help the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities offset costs associated with implementing affordable housing plans.

“This agency has led the way in helping our constituent municipalities meet their affordable housing needs,” said NJMC Chair Susan Bass Levin, also the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner. “We have provided grants and technical assistance to help our towns prepare fair share housing plans. Today, we are offering these additional funds to further extend a helping hand to our Meadowlands District municipalities so they can carry out their affordable housing obligations once the plans are approved.”

Up to \$35,000 will be made available to each municipality upon receiving certification from the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) to offset the costs of administering their fair share housing plans certified under COAH’s Third Round Plans. These funds can be used to obtain any technical assistance needed to implement these plans and comply with COAH’s Uniform Housing Affordability Controls.

Prior to today’s allocation of funds, the NJMC has offered technical assistance and grants of up to \$25,000 to each of its 14 constituent municipalities to prepare a fair share housing plan under COAH’s Third Round methodology. To date, seven towns have petitioned COAH for certification as a direct result of the NJMC’s assistance. All 14 municipalities have utilized the NJMC’s assistance in retaining planners and undertaking new housing plans. The funds allocated today will come from the NJMC’s MAGNET (Meadowlands Area Grants for Natural and Economic Transformation) program.

“One of the cornerstones of the NJMC’s affordable housing initiative has been offering our District towns the technical and financial assistance they need to comply with COAH’s regulations,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “These funds are a natural extension of what we have done to get our towns to the point of submitting a plan for certification. Our help extends to the next step, which is actually putting these affordable housing plans into action.”

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